

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

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### **PIERCE: HOUSE GOP CENSORING HOUSE DEMOCRAT NEWSLETTERS**

INDIANAPOLIS – If you live in an Indiana House district represented by a Democrat, it's likely that any newsletters you receive have been heavily censored by Indiana House Republicans, according to State Rep. Matt Pierce (D-Bloomington).

"Not only have House Republicans censored newsletters sent out by myself and other House Democrats, they have forbidden me from including any disclosures in my legislative updates that explain the House Republican staff demands approval of the text in those publications before they can be mailed to the people I represent," Pierce said.

"This is nothing new," the lawmaker added. "Throughout the 2005 session of the Indiana General Assembly, House Republicans heavily edited Democrat mailings to their constituents. They were particularly sensitive about any kind of text explaining Republican cuts in education funding and how the new voter ID law will block many people from voting."

When told he could not send out a legislative update unless changes were made to satisfy House Republicans, Pierce reluctantly complied and added a disclosure to the front of his newsletter that read:

NOTICE: House Republican leadership will not allow legislative newsletters to be sent without their approval of content. This newsletter's text has been edited at the direction of House Republican staff.

"However, the Republicans have told me that I cannot mail my newsletter with that disclosure included," Pierce said. "Apparently they want the right to censor newsletters that explain what the Legislature is really doing, as well as the right to keep the public from knowing that they are censors. They claim such a disclosure is not needed because their review process is working so well.

"I'm not sure which is worse: the censoring of our newsletters or the House Republican efforts to hide what they are doing from the public," he continued.

In the future, Pierce said he will notify the public through the media of the censoring that House Republicans have demanded in his newsletter.

"It is important for people to know that the legislative updates they receive have gone through a Republican filter," Pierce said.

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